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SOURCE: KODAKC.008010
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WHA:PROMERO WHA/AND:PCHICOLA P:SSCHWARTZ
WHA/EPSC:MSHELTON S/S-C:BHAMBRICK D:KDOHERTY
WHA/AND:MMEIGS S/S:RMLTKTNS S/S-O:CJSANDROLTNI
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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL, OPDC, VE
SUBJECT: LETTER FROM SECRETARY TO FOREIGN MINISTER-
DESIGNATE RANGEL

1. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO DELIVER FOLLOWING LETTER FROM SECRETARY ALBRIGHT TO FOREIGN MINISTER-DESIGNATE RANGEL. NO SIGNED ORIGINAL WILL FOLLOW.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ALAN H FLANIGAN
DATE/CASE ID: 18 JUN 2007 200504156

2. BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR MR. RANGEL:

I EXTEND TO YOU MY CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN MINISTER IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT-ELECT HUGO CHAVEZ. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH YOU TO DEEPEN THE EXCELLENT RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES. AMBASSADOR ROMERO, AFTER HIS MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT-ELECT, INFORMED ME THAT MR. CHAVEZ INTENDS A VERY VIGOROUS REFORM AGENDA. I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU ABOUT HOW WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO ASSIST THESE EFFORTS.

VENEZUELA'S AND THE UNITED STATES' VISION FOR THE FUTURE EXTENDS WELL BEYOND OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. AS YOU KNOW, LEADERS IN THE HEMISPHERE APPROVED AN AMBITIOUS PLAN

OF ACTION AT THE SANTIAGO SUMMIT IN APRIL 1998. I HOPE WE WILL HAVE OCCASION IN THE UPCOMING MONTHS TO DISCUSS OUR COMMON VISION FOR IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN OUR HEMISPHERE, PROMOTING THE RULE OF LAW THROUGH STRENGTHENING DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS, FIGHTING NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING AND CORRUPTION, DEVELOPING AN OPEN WORLD ECONOMY AND PRESERVING THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT.

MY WARMEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR,

SINCERELY,

MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT.

END TEXT.
ALBRIGHT